Haldia Petrochemicals Project

1182. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have since taken any decision on the West Bengal State Government's proposal for the Haldia Petrochemicals Project; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) As far as the Ministry of Industry is concerned, necessary approvals for the project including extension in the validity of the letter of intent and in the foreign collaboration approvals have been given from time to time.

The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that financial institutions have not so far cleared the project of M|s. Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd. IDBI has also not received any projections relating to the project from the Company.

Exploratory work in Kerala

1183. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any oil and natural gas exploration has been conducted in the coastal belts oh backwaters of Kerala;

(b) if so, what are the details and results thereof; and

(c) what follow up action has been proposed to be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Three wells viz. Cochin I, Kasargad-I and Cochin High-I have been drilled so far and all of these proved to be dry.

(c) Drilling of one well *viz.* CH-2-1 has been planned, Additional seismic data acquisition has also been planned.

Development of multigrade engine oil

1184. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IOC has developed a multigrade engine oil which could enable Railways to reduce its fuel bill by Rs. 25 crores a year;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what would be its annual production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (R&D) has developed a multigrade engine oil which is presently under extensive trials by the Railways. Its commercial production will depend on the requirement of the Railways that may be assessed after successful completion of these trials by early 1989. Their present consumption of monograde diesel oils is around 30,000 tonnes per annum.

Increase in the retention price of levy cement

1185. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Ministry of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that levy cement retention price has recently been raised; and